

The Athens Post.

BY SAM. P. IVINS.

ATHENS, TENNESSEE, FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1869.

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The Post.

Athens, Friday, March 5, 1869.

Railway Chairs.

A gentleman in Boston believes that one-half of the wear of the rails and nine-tenths of the breakages of wheels and rails are due to the loose condition of the ends of the rails. He has invented a "chair," which will keep them permanently firm.

Humanitarian Trash.

John Bright's argument in favor of the abolition of the hanging of murderers. In Illinois they have tried the abolition of capital punishment, and they have found it so encouraging to cut-throats that they have passed a bill by the Legislature to restore the rope. A pound of facts is worth a ton of visionary theories.

Practical Reconstruction.

Last year's cotton crop of Georgia is estimated in value at forty millions of dollars, and it was not a favorable season. No wonder the cotton lands of the State have run up in price some fifty, some one hundred and some two hundred and even three hundred per cent. At this rate before the expiration of President Grant's term of office the wealth and prosperity of our Southern States will be the wonder of the world.

No Rights.

According to a recent decision in one of the petty courts of California, in the case of the robbery of a Chinaman by a negro the Chinaman in California has no rights which a negro is bound to respect. It was decided that whereas the Chinaman, by the laws of California, cannot testify against a white man, and whereas by the Civil Rights bill of Congress a negro has the same civil rights as a white man, therefore John Chinaman against Sambo had no case, because he could make no charge. We call the attention of the Hon. Charles Sumner to this matter. Let him look into it or never say human rights again.

The White Pine District.

The White Pine district, in Nevada, where silver is said to be lying around loose in large lumps, has already its hundreds of pilgrims on the way. Some of them are from Montana, others from Idaho. Two years ago they were in Oregon or in California. Next year they may be on their way to Arizona and New Mexico. Not one in a hundred will ever accumulate money. They live always in hope. To-day waits on to-morrow. Yet they serve an important purpose in the unsettled regions. They are the explorers of the continent, tracing every stream to its source, climbing every mountain peak, making new paths, opening new roads—foreshadowers of the coming millions.

Children.

Children are qualified blessings; but whether wholly or only partially so, they are necessary. What sort of a plight would we reach in a century or so without them? Pitiable, no doubt. Then let us be kind to the young folks. Let us recollect that we were once such, and likely enough were just as noisy, rollicking, nonsensical, and churlish as any that we see about us, and whom we are apt to censure as a nuisance. Children are properly never a nuisance, though sometimes, as in the case of a young gentleman and lady who like to be alone, they approach that style. The worst of children at such times is, they blab any little tokens of familiarity and affection which they observe. "Pa, I see Mr. Ferguson kiss Aunt Mary lots in the parlor," or "Aunt Mary had her arm round Mr. Ferguson's neck," and like expressions, though true enough, are not very pleasant to be noised abroad by stentorian lungs. Slightly a nuisance then; possibly, but rarely otherwise.

Mrs. Mary Webb, the venerable mother of Hon. D. P. Lewis, died a few days since in Huntsville, Alabama.

GRANT vs. THE SENATE.

The New York *Star* thinks that unless the friends of General Grant develop more strength and influence in the Senate in the future, than they have in the past, he is likely to have anything but an easy and comfortable existence as President. In their zealous determination to snub President Johnson, we are reminded, the Senate and House took extraordinary measures, vesting more absolute power in the Senate than it had ever enjoyed before.

"Power to the Senate, is like blood to a tiger. It has had a taste, and can't bear to give up the tit-bit. There are hundreds of men in office, whose official heads ought to roll in the gutter of private life; but unless the Senate shows off its recently grafted power, Grant cannot remove them. He is just as much in a corner as Mr. Johnson. To be sure, he just now is on the best of terms with Congress, but how long can he be if he determines to administer the duties of his office in a practical, honest, non-partisan manner?"

As little by little the power of the Executive is taken away, his influence will be diminished, and his ability for good will be cramped. If the controlling power, the official patronage, the *patronage*, rest with the Senate, to the Senate will go all the corrupt lobbyists of the day, to the Senate will turn all the office-seekers, and all the speculators, and there where individual responsibility is merged into general laxity and disregard for consequences, the piques and prejudices, selfishness and personal whims of men will find full opportunity, and the disgraceful scenes of trade, or bargain, and corruption that mark even the resort of the worst lobbyists, will be repeated, to the everlasting disgrace of the Republic.

Stealing from the Indians.

Mr. Garfield, of Ohio, gives the following illustration of the manner in which public money is used by the Indian Bureau in an extract from a letter written by a distinguished army officer for many years in the territories: "I speak what I know when I say that of every dollar appropriated by Congress for the Sioux during the last ten years, eighty cents have been stolen—only twenty cents reaching the Indians. In 1859, when the afflicted tribes were brought from Texas, a large sum was paid for moving them, although they moved without aid. They were settled on the Washita and fed by the government until the rebellion broke out. They never exceeded twenty-five hundred in number; yet they were mustered on paper at from six to eight thousand. The contract was let to feed them one pound of beef and one pound of flour per soul daily. Texas cattle not averaging four hundred pounds net were issued to them at eight hundred pounds; and although the contract called for good merchantable flour, yet, during the year and a half I was there, the Indians never saw an ounce of flour. The agents gave them shorts and middlings, while the government paid for them." These rogues have been going from bad to worse for the last 20 years.

Exit Wade.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer*, referring to the frequent defeats which have befallen old Ben. Wade, and the probability that he will not be invited to Grant's cabinet, and will soon be turned out to grass, says:

After all, he has done an immense business upon a small capital. He has been eighteen years United States Senator from Ohio. He has filled a vacancy in the office of Vice-President of the United States. Yet his talents are of the most inferior kind. His attainments are nothing. He is naturally and grossly ignorant—destitute of ordinary acquirements. The fact that such a man, without one single bright natural qualification, should have been the representative of Ohio for nearly twenty years in the Senate of the United States, is not calculated, by any means, to increase our respect for republican institutions.

A Remarkable State.

A man who has been travelling in Texas, says of it:

"It is the hottest and coldest, the wettest and driest, the richest and poorest, the best and the meanest, has the best women and the meanest men, more pretty ladies, with little feet and no calves to suit; more sickness and less health, more streams and less navigable waters, more corn and less meal, more flour and less biscuit, more cows and less milk and butter, more hogs and less pork, more deer and less venison, more chickens and fewer eggs, more gold and silver and less money, more negroes and less labor; more Bureaus and less furniture, than any country in the United States!—and where house flies live and mosquitoes never die?"

Poor Boy.

"Hiram, my boy," said a tender father to his son, "you must be more careful of yourself. You have not the constitution of some." "Don't believe it; I've got the constitution of a horse. Dang it, if I don't believe I've got the constitution of the United States."

A western editor thinks the poem of Enoch Arden has encouraged hundreds of dead husbands to return and annoy their families, who would otherwise have kept away. The Enoch Arden in real life, he says, is usually a scallawag, and comes home ragged, dirty and drunk.

MORE TAXES.

Increasing the National Indebtedness.

"Mick" writes as follows to the Cincinnati *Enquirer*:

There is talk of increasing the taxes. Of course, they must be increased if the "national blessing"—which, by the way, is the most effectually disguised "blessing" I ever heard of—is to be continued. The debt increases every month and the revenue falls off—so we must either have more bonds or more taxes. That's a beautiful condition of finances for a country four years after the close of a great war. England has reduced her debt about fifty million dollars a year since the close of the Crimean war. The American debt has increased just about that amount since the close of the rebellion. And the financiers of Congress still labor under the delusion that the people will bear war taxes in time of peace. Some English statesmen, after the peace of Paris, thought so too. But a few years of experience undeceived them. Lord Castlereagh began to speak contemptuously of that "ignorant impatience of taxation which he noticed in the lower classes, but he had to change his tune and his budget before long and look for revenue elsewhere than to the "lower classes."

That "ignorant impatience," which he affected to despise, became clamorous after a while, and he had to bow before its dictates. Just so it will be in this country. The people are getting heartily sick and tired of taxes and tariffs which plunder the many to enrich the few, which corrupt the halls of legislation and the offices of the Government, and yield no perceptible good to the masses, which double prices without increasing incomes, and make it the chief concern of a poor man to find the wherewithal to pay the tax-gatherer. Unjust taxation has provoked more than one revolution besides that of '76, and it is an historical fact worth notice, that no people have ever yet resisted it successfully who have resisted it determinedly. The people of the North-west will, ere long, cease to be tickled with the laughing gas of "loyalty," which has reconciled them to so many wrongs in the recent past; and arousing them from their pleasant sensations will realize the fact that they are bound hand and foot to the money power of New England. The "Lion in Love" is not a bad fable for illustrating the case. The West is the lion. He has recently become desperately enamored of the Yankee damsel, who is just taking advantage of his affectionate disposition to despoil him of all the attributes of his majesty and strength.

White Labor South.

German laborers are being largely introduced into South Carolina. A number of planters met several months ago, conferred upon the matter, agreed that white labor would pay, formed an association, appointed an agent, paid each a hundred dollars as a beginning fund, and the work commenced. The agent began by getting at first small numbers—six, eight, ten or a dozen at a time—and from month to month, brought on a few more; his number of emigrant laborers for January being just fifty. And thus the work will go on until May or thereabouts, when the demand for this year will slack off, to be renewed in the autumn for next year. Laborers already in service do at least fifty per cent. more work than negroes. The result is easy to be seen—the negroes must give place to the Saxon and the Teuton. He must move nearer and nearer to the coast, where, on account of the malaria, the whites will be slower to go. Those persons who expect largely of the negro, say it will stimulate the negro to do fifty per cent. more work. But the stimulus (competition) that was applied to the negro race for three thousand years in Egypt without elevating him, may be applied to the same race in Carolina cotton fields with the same result.

Alabama--Tennessee.

Alabama is fortunate in having a Governor who has some sense as well as humanity. The following will show what we mean:

MORRIS, Feb. 26.—Gov. Smith has issued a letter of instruction to the Sheriffs of the different counties in reference to outrages by the Ku-Klux. He says that they are invested with ample authority to protect the citizens and preserve order, and that if they are unable to do so by means of a *posse comitatus* it is their duty to call upon the military commander of the nearest post, who, under a standing general order from the War Department, will furnish all requisite assistance.

Domestic Animals.

The Agricultural Society having offered a prize for the best essay on the management of domestic animals Mrs. Peckwell immediately set herself about writing fifty pages of foolscap on the exhilarating topic of husbands. It is to be sent in when finished, and Mrs. B. has aspirations for its success.

A Question.

Thousands of years ago it was written, "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand, for thou knowest not which shall prosper, this or that." Will the great Professors of the Science of Agriculture tell us wherein in this respect the farmers of the present day are any better off than their brethren of the ages past.

THE SUPREME COURT DECISION.

The New York *Herald*, commenting upon the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in regard to coin-contracts, says:

The court only decided upon the law of the case and did not enter into the question of the constitutionality of the Legal Tender act authorizing the issue of United States notes. We know not whether the broad question of the constitutionality of the act will ever come up fairly or be decided upon by the Supreme Court; but if it should there need not be any fear that the decision would be such as to undo the work of the government and throw the whole country into confusion. There is a law of necessity before which even the highest courts bow. Before this, doubtful questions of constitutional law or the nice technicalities give way. The people may rest perfectly easy, therefore, with regard to the legal tender question since this decision of the court on coin contracts. Nor need there be any confusion of ideas or trouble about having two kinds of money or legal tenders. We have always had two kinds of money—paper and specie. So has England, and so have all great commercial nations. Indeed, it is impossible to do without paper money in some form or other. There is not specie enough in the world to do a fifth part of the business, to say nothing of the greater convenience of using or handling paper representatives of value. The decision of the Supreme Court may prove valuable in facilitating coin transactions in business and in tending to bring the country nearer to a specie basis. That ought to be sufficient for the present, and the less Congress does with the currency the better. The operation of natural laws and of individual action in the matter of contracts and trade will regulate the currency and bring us to specie payments as soon as they can be safely reached without creating a revolution or disturbance in the values and business of the country.

The Seven Stages of Repudiation.

The United States have already done a very large business in the repudiation of public indebtedness, as will be seen from the following rather discreditable summary, which we reproduce from the Cincinnati *Enquirer*:

1. They repudiated the Continental money which carried us through the war of the Revolution.
2. The "French Spoliation Claims," previous to 1800, which our Government in a treaty which France agreed to pay, and received from that nation valuable consideration on that account.
3. They repudiated the three hundred-dollar obligation which it made with those slaveholders who, in the border States, emancipated their slaves in reliance upon its provisions contained in a Congressional law.
4. It has repudiated a vast number of legal and just war claims upon it, growing out of the wanton destruction of private and personal property, which, in many cases, were taken for public uses during the late armed struggle between the States.
5. It voluntarily agreed to give a large number of soldiers their pay in gold, but it broke faith with them, and paid in depreciated paper worth but forty or fifty cents on the dollar.
6. The States of Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana—in fact, we believe, all the States, repudiated their agreement with their creditors to pay the interest on their public debts in gold. Instead of doing so they paid in greatly depreciated paper, which was not worth more than half as much as they had promised.
7. Before the war Mississippi repudiated a large portion of her State debt, and for some years Pennsylvania and Indiana, if not other States, neglected to pay the interest upon their indebtedness.

In not one of the cases above mentioned was there half the justification which would attach to a movement of the tax-ridden people of Tennessee in the same direction.

Haunted House.

There is said to be a haunted house in Lansingburgh, N. Y., where ghosts get out on parade, and strange weird noises are heard. Doors open and close by invisible fingers, shutters rattle drearily, and after nightfall pedestrians pass hurriedly by with a furtive glance toward the staring, silent mansion; and though many have expressed a willingness to pass the night there, keeping watch and ward, as yet none have had the hardihood to turn in and take lodgings with odds in their favor of an "invite" to sup with the spirits. Tenants move in, and then all of a sudden, without assigning any cogent reasons, take their flight; and thus the antique structure sits solitary and tenantless, frequented only by the vagrant boys of the neighborhood, with now and then a brief, formal call from the agent, or an inquisitorial visit from some stranger in search of a spot to set up his household deities.

There is an orange grove of 500 trees at Pilatka, Florida, which yields a tremendous profit. It is owned by Northern men, who paid \$8,000 for 280 acres, sold off half at a good price, and in the first year cleared the original cost of the whole place from the fruit raised upon it.

The county treasurer's safe at Minneapolis, Minnesota, was robbed of fifteen hundred dollars in money and a lot of checks on Tuesday night.

CHRISTIANITY--THE GREAT FUTURE.

Has the Millennium Commenced?

(From the New York Herald.)

Have we yet entered upon the millennium? Some there are who think we have not. Others there are who think we have. On this subject there are few bold enough to speak authoritatively. It has often seemed to us that it would not be difficult, presumptively to make out a good case in favor of the existence now of that thousand years period to which the pious in all ages of Christianity have enthusiastically looked forward, and for the advent of which they have perseveringly and fervently prayed. The times are not without certain peculiarities, which, to say the least, are suggestive of great and rapid change. Nor have we been without the promised signs. We have had signs in the heavens above, signs in the moon and stars, signs in the waters under the earth. There have been blood and fire and vapor of smoke. Against this view it would be no good argument to say that the great mass of mankind and even the great majority of Christian believers have failed to discover in the present times any sufficient proof that the millennium had arrived. The fullness of the times had long been foretold to the Jews. But when the fullness of the times arrived, rich as it was with convincing evidence, the Jews failed to recognize the period or to see the Saviour which it brought to them. Not only so. The Jews of this day, scattered as they are over all lands and across every sea, living among all peoples and in every possible condition, refuse to admit that the fullness of the times has yet come, and they will not see in the great central object of the Christian's faith the long-looked-for and oft-promised Messiah. The Jews have failed to see Christ, but that is not the proof that the Christ has not made His appearance. So it is with the millennium. It may or it may not be already entered upon. It is certainly no proof that it is not entered upon that mankind generally, and Christians particularly, have failed to recognize it. There are to be unbelievers in the last days as there were unbelievers in the first.

However it may be with this prospective period which men have called the millennium—an old and much vexed subject of discussion—a subject warmly defended by such fathers as Justin Martyr, Irenaeus and Tertullian, but which was stoutly knocked on the head by the great heretics, and successful of all the early apologists. Original whether there shall be a millennium in the old and popular sense or whether there shall not—this, at least, must be admitted, that Christianity has a magnificent future before it, and that in that future and through Christianity all nations shall be blessed. That this great future in some sense is already ours is not for a moment to be doubted. What it is to be in the fullness of its glorious fruition we can as yet but imperfectly imagine. The golden age, the great hereditary reign of universal brotherhood, as poets, sacred and profane, have described it; when the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places plain; when many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased, when science shall force her way, torch in hand, into every secret place and dislodge the mystery and the power; when the curse that followed sin shall be undone by the antidotes of nature; when the curse that fell upon impurity and pride at Babel shall be rendered powerless by the universal diffusion of one common tongue; when science, no longer divorced from religion and now the controller of all mystery and all power, shall be the willing handmaid of Christianity; when the earth shall bear upon its broad and generous bosom but one people, one language, one faith, and when liberty and sufficiency shall be the portion of all—that glorious golden time which as yet we can see but dimly is rapidly hastening on. It may not be ours to witness the fullness of the splendor of that happy day, but it is certainly ours to behold the gorgeousness of its dawn. It may not be ours to take part with the merry reapers and gather in the golden harvest; but it is an occupation which is scarcely less delightful, and which is certainly more invigorating, to share in the activities of the hopeful springtime; and that occupation is ours. The present times are full of activity. The great future with impatient strides draws nearer and nearer. As we gaze the vision brightens. We see the nations contented and at rest. The war drum throbs no longer; the battle flags are furled. We see Christianity enthroned and wielding the scepter of universal empire, but ruling with gentle and benignant sway, while by her side sits meek-eyed Science, calm but conscious of power and ever ready to obey.

This great future is but the natural and necessary product of the present. To Christianity are we indebted for all the most admired characteristics of the age. With the poet we must admit that "through the ages one increasing purpose runs," and that "the thoughts of men are widened with the process of the stars." We cannot doubt this, but we know that this increasing purpose has run with fleetest feet since the advent of Christianity, and that the enlargement of human thought has gone on at an increased and increasing ratio during the Christian centuries. Christianity was feeble in its infancy, but, like the stone out from the mountain, it gathered strength as it rolled. It fostered thought and gave an impulse to human ingenuity as no system had ever done before. In spite of all the faults committed in its name, the religion of Jesus has proved itself from the commencement the best friend of humanity, the best patron of science and the most potent agency in the development of

human thought. The mariner's compass, the printing press, the newspaper, the steam engine, the electric telegraph, the railroad—these and a thousand other discoveries and inventions attest the fostering genius of Christianity. Of such also may be regarded as the parent, and such she retains in her service. These are the true preachers of the present, and more and more they will become the preachers of the future. Not the surly, numbing behind-the-scenes, not the elegant coxcombs who, gowned or ungowned, lip honeyed words to willing ears; not the vulgar demagogues who can find in the Gospel only fire and brimstone—not these, but the railroad, the telegraph, the printing press, and especially the newspaper, now are the great heralds of the Cross. What have these agents not done?—What are they not doing? Time and space have ceased to be obstructions in their way. They have bridged the mighty waters, pieced the everlasting hills and made the lightning the swift messenger of thought. They have bound the nations and continents together and created a community of interest. They have quickened and intensified thought by almost unqualified facilities of expression. They have given an impulse to the process of unification which reveals itself in swiftly changing boundary lines—boundary lines which show that as civilization advances nations become fewer but larger, and that the tendency is to obliterate all the distinctions of race, language and religion. One great family, one common language, one common faith, and that faith Christianity—such is the future which lies before the world. All the great forces of the time are in the service of Christianity, and everything indicates that we are on the eve of a great crisis, out of which Christianity will come simpler, purer, more like its original self, but more powerful than ever.

Agricultural Items.

Corn soaked in strong lye is said to be an infallible remedy for swine troubled with the kidney-worm. Salt and brimstone given in moderate quantity is a preventive.

It is estimated that the pigeons of England and Wales destroy five millions of wheat annually.

Do not cut off the lower limbs of a fruit tree. A tree with the limbs coming out near the ground is worth two trees trimmed up five feet. Shorten, but do not lengthen up.

A grindstone should not be exposed to the weather, as it not only injures the wood work, but the run's rays harden the stone so much in time as to render it almost useless. Neither should it stand in the water in which it runs, as the remaining in the water softens so much that it wears unequally and "out of true."

Pens and beams being both rich in nitrogen, are valuable in repairing the waste in the muscles of animals, and are especially advantageous in the production of wool.

Dr. F. C. Brunck, ruralizing in the grape regions of the Rhine, writes that vineyard lands are held here at \$4.00 in gold per acre of 116 square perches. In common situations the price is \$280.

Muck should never be taken to the field direct from the swamps. It should be exposed to the atmosphere for six months or more, the longer the better, and composted with lime or unleached ashes.

Linen and Flax.

Great Britain imported 50 per cent. less of linen in 1868, than in 1866, the cause of which is attributed to increased local production, particularly in Ireland. Why should we not grow flax in the United States? All it requires is a temperate climate, and considerable weeding. In Belgium the crop exceeds in value the land on which it is grown, and its cultivation has reached the dignity of science, the finest product bringing from \$500 to \$900 per ton. In 1861 a patent for "cottoning" flax was obtained by Chevalier Clausen. Seed, as well as fibre, are valuable, yielding linseed oil, while the crushed mass is the well-known oil cake, so efficacious in feeding cattle.

Sweet Potatoes.

The sweet potato is one of the crops upon sandy, loamy soils, that yield incredibly where attention is paid them, and return a fine profit, selling usually at the beginning of the year at from \$1 to \$1.50 per bushel, and from \$2 to \$5 at bedding season. Great difficulty is encountered in keeping them, as they must be kept at uniform temperature, and are very sensitive to frost. The most successful mode for keeping them is the old pioneer "dirt bank" or hill covered with common boards to protect from weather and rain.

The moment a man gives way to inordinate desire, disquietude and torment take possession of his heart. The proud and the covetous are never at rest; but the humble and poor in spirit possess their souls in the plenitude of peace.

In the New Orleans wine case, the other day, the judge, counsel and an expert used up about twenty bottles in experimental tasting.

Scientific men in France and Germany think the recent convulsions of the earth indicate the formation of a new continent.

Secretary of the Treasury says that some seventy million dollars of counterfeit greenbacks are actually afloat.